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| 09/905,415      | 07/13/2001  | Travis W. Loyd       | 10010635-1          | 4730             |

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EXAMINER

HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2136

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/905,415

Applicant(s)

LOYD, TRAVIS W.

Examiner

Brandon S. Hoffman

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-12,14-22 and 24-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-12,14-22 and 24-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-22, and 24-29 are pending in this office action, claims 2, 13, and 23 are canceled.
2. Applicant's arguments, filed April 14, 2006, have been considered and are persuasive. However, a new ground of rejection is made.

### *Rejections*

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-20, 22, and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linsker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,680,455) in view of Shen (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,935).

Regarding claims 1, 12, and 22, Linsker et al. teaches a method/system/printer for regulating the ability of a user to print on a printer, comprising:

- A sending processor that includes a private key of a sender, where the private key forms a key pair with a public key, the sending processor being adapted to

encrypt an aspect of a print job using the private key and to send the print job and encrypted aspect over a network (col. 4, lines 43-58); and

- A printer in communication with the sending processor, where the printer is adapted to receive the print job and encrypted aspect from the sending processor and to verify the sender by decoding the encrypted aspect using the public key (col. 4, line 66 through col. 5, line 50).

Linsker et al. does not teach to print a document based on the print job only if the aspect of the print job is decoded successfully, **where the printer is located at a printing site and printing is contingent on re-verification of the sender at the printing site.**

Shen teaches to print a document based on the print job only if the aspect of the print job is decoded successfully (col. 5, lines 20-26, with the proper pin and security code, the document is converted into a printable format and then printed for the user), **where the printer is located at a printing site and printing is contingent on re-verification of the sender at the printing site** (fig. 8-12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine only printing if the aspect of the print job is decoded successfully and **where the printer is located at a printing site and printing is contingent on re-verification of the sender at the printing site**, as taught by Shen,

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with the method/system/printer of Linsker et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because preventing printing until an aspect of the print job is decoded successfully proves that the sender really sent the document that they said they sent; also re-verifying the user at the printer ensures that no one steals the document from the printer by getting to the printer first (see col. 1, lines 20-32 of Shen).

Regarding claim 3, Linsker et al. as modified by Shen teaches wherein re-verification includes demonstrating possession of the private key by the sender at the printing site (see col. 5, lines 41-50 of Linsker).

Regarding claims 4, 14, and 24, Linsker et al. as modified by Shen teaches where the private key is stored on a portable processor and possession is demonstrated with a locally-restricted optical signal (see fig. 2, ref. num 208 of Linsker).

Regarding claims 5, 15, and 25, Linsker et al. as modified by Shen teaches where the aspect relates to content of the print job (see col. 4, lines 55-58 of Linsker).

Regarding claims 6, 16, and 26, Linsker et al. as modified by Shen teaches where the aspect, after encryption, is a digital signature (see col. 4, lines 45-49 of Linsker).

Regarding claims 7, 17, and 27, Linsker et al. as modified by Shen teaches where the public key is included in a digital certificate (see col. 5, lines 7-19 of Linsker).

Regarding claims 8, 18, and 28, Linsker et al. as modified by Shen teaches where the public key is included in the print job (see col. 4, lines 55-58 of Linsker).

Regarding claims 9, 19, and 29, Linsker et al. as modified by Shen teaches where the public key is obtained by the printer from a public key database (see col. 5, lines 3-7 of Linsker).

Regarding claims 10 and 20, Linsker et al. as modified by Shen teaches where the public key is linked to an authorization table that permits the sender to print on the printer (see col. 8, lines 10-12 of Linsker).

Claims 11 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linsker et al. (USPN '455) in view of Shen (USPN '935), and further in view of Pravetz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,684).

Regarding claims 11 and 21, Linsker et al. as modified by Shen teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 12, respectively, above. However, Linsker et al. as modified by Shen does not teach where the print job is at least partially encrypted by the sender with a public key of the printer.

Pravetz et al. teaches where the print job is at least partially encrypted by the sender with a public key of the printer (col. 4, line 63 through col. 5, line 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine encrypting the print job by the sender with a public key of the printer, as taught by Pravetz et al., with the method/system of Linsker et al./Shen. It would have been obvious for such modifications because this allows only the printer to be able to decrypt the print job with its own private key.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon S. Hoffman whose telephone number is 571-272-3863. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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